



Bringing the County Closer to You!

Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director
Juan Cardenas, UCAB Chair

May 11, 2012

Upcounty's "Corridor Cities Transitway" (CCT) Gets "Yes" from Governor O'Malley!!

Today, Governor Martin O'Malley will announce that the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) will be a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. This will make the CCT Maryland's first BRT system. Following Governor O'Malley's announcement, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) will submit the project to the Federal Transit Administration under its New Starts Program for federal funding.

The CCT is a 15-mile, 16 station north-south transit corridor system from the Shady Grove Metrorail station to the COMSAT facility near Clarksburg in Montgomery County. The CCT is projected to facilitate more than 47,000 boardings per day by 2035. The CCT will be constructed in two phases. Phase I will involve a 9-mile segment between Shady Grove and Metropolitan Grove. Phase II will be 6-miles long from Metropolitan Grove to COMSAT.

If you have any questions about the CCT project, please contact Ms. Diane Ratcliff, MTA's Director of Planning, at 410-767-3787 or by email at dratcliff@mta.maryland.gov.

For more, see today's press release here or attached!



CCT Alternative
Announce 5 11 12.pd

Reminder!

**Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board meets with
Public Libraries Director Parker Hamilton**

**Monday, May 21 at 7:00pm
Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown**

Proposed Zoning Text Amendment: **Accessory Apartments**



Planners have proposed new regulations for accessory apartments in an effort to meet the increasing demand for rental units. This measure would allow accessory apartments built within homes or on single-family properties.

Currently, homeowners who want to add an accessory apartment apply for a special exception from the county Board of Appeals. In most cases, special exceptions for accessory apartments are granted.

The proposed regulations, a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to be considered by the Planning Board and the County Council, would allow a small, attached accessory apartment to be licensed and approved without the time or expense required by the special exception process. Planners propose to better define the units, allow them by right in some zones, and limit accessory apartments of a certain size or to avoid overcrowding neighborhoods.

Learn more about the proposed regulations and let planners know what you think at our community meetings about the proposed ZTA on accessory apartments. The sessions, which will be identical in format, will provide residents an opportunity to receive information on current and proposed accessory apartment regulations and provide feedback.

Session 1: 3:00-4:30 p.m. Monday, May 21

Session 2: 7:00-9:00 p.m. Monday, May 21

Park and Planning Headquarters auditorium

8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring

To get details on what the Amendment would do, visit:

http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/functional/accessory_apartments.shtm

Download the [draft Zoning Text Amendment \[PDF\]](#), which was reviewed by the Planning Board on May 3. The Board will discuss the ZTA in early June, 2012.

After the Planning Board, the proposal will go to the County Council for consideration.

If questions, contact:

Gregory Russ, Planner Coordinator

301-495-2174

Gregory.Russ@montgomeryplanning.org



Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County launches new *Community Solutions Program*

May 18 5:30pm-7:00pm

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda

The nonprofit Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County (CRCMC) will hold a press conference and reception to launch its new **Community Solutions Program**. The new Community Solutions Program is geared to helping civic associations, community groups, nonprofits and local government agencies tackle controversial problems that affect multiple parties with a goal of helping them develop mutually acceptable agreements. Whether it's a place of worship seeking to build an assisted living facility or a county agency seeking to widen a road, Community Solutions can help the affected parties discuss the issues, identify interests, brainstorm solutions and craft agreements.

CRCMC volunteers will work with meeting conveners to assure all affected groups are in attendance. These volunteers will also facilitate meetings, making sure that participants have a chance to speak, that their ideas are recorded in writing, and that any agreements reached are written using the participants' words.

The program, which is free to groups throughout the county, was made possible by the Office of the County Executive and the State of Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO). Special thanks also go to Dr. Frank Dukes and Dr. Kristina Weaver of the University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation who are training CRCMC staff and volunteers on the principles and practice of Community Solutions.

CRCMC's Community Solutions Program is the only one of its kind in the state of Maryland and one of a handful of such programs in the nation.

Please RSVP to Yonelle Moore at 301-652-0717 or yonelle@crcmc.org.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE



The M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Planning Board is holding a Public Hearing on the Draft 2012 Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan during their regular meeting on **Thursday May 24, 2012**. The Hearing will be held in the auditorium of the Montgomery Regional Office at **8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**.

The main purpose of the 2012 PROS Plan is to estimate the future needs for park and recreation facilities and natural and historic resource preservation and develop specific service delivery strategies to meet future needs. This effort builds on the results of the 2011 Vision 2030 Strategic Plan.

The document is an update of the *2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan/PROS Plan*. It serves as the County's *Local Land Preservation and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)* and is required by the State to retain eligibility for Program Open Space Grant funding.

The *2012 PROS Plan* includes chapters on: Recreation and Parks, Natural Resource Conservation, Historic and Cultural Resources Preservation and Agricultural Land Preservation.

For copies of the meeting agenda, the staff report, and to sign up to testify online (and to listen to the live public hearing broadcast) visit: www.MontgomeryPlanningBoard.org/agenda/ . To sign up over the phone and to check time of item call: 301-495-4600.

Written testimony may be emailed to mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org or mailed to Planning Board Chairman, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Testimony will be limited to 3 minutes for individuals and 5 minutes for group representatives. Staff will be requesting that the record remain open for one additional week following the hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Coordinator at: MCP-PROSPlan2012@Montgomeryparks.org.

For more information on the Plan or copies of the [public hearing](#) draft visit: www.ParkPlanning.org

Montgomery County “Soft” Launches New Website; Visitors to Site Encouraged to Provide Feedback

Behind the scenes, Montgomery County’s award-winning website has been redesigned with a fresh look, new and enhanced features and easier and more straightforward navigation tools. Website users are invited to view and use the “soft” launch site at <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

“During this soft launch period, we are encouraging visitors to ‘test drive’ the new site and give us feedback on their experiences and thoughts for making further improvements,” said County Executive Isiah Leggett. “Our IT staff has devoted considerable time and thought into designing and developing this new web portal using feedback from customers, but we welcome more input and feedback as we continue to fine tune the site. The cornerstone of my administration has been to give ‘everyone a seat at the table’ and I welcome the suggestions of every single visitor to this site.”

The new site, designed by the County’s Department of Technology Services and Office of Public Information, was upgraded in response to users’ requests for certain improvements. Based on feedback, the website is compatible with mobile devices and has greater accessibility for the disabled. These and other improvements make the new web portal even more user-friendly.

During this soft launch period, visitors to the site are encouraged to respond to a brief user survey providing their input about the new site. The survey can be found in the upper right-hand corner on the homepage www.montgomerycountymd.gov. These comments will be read and evaluated and further changes to the web portal will be made before it is officially launched in coming months.

For more information, call 240-777-6507.

The Volunteer Center Moves to the Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown

The Volunteer Center has moved to the **Upcounty Regional Services Center** at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown. Relocating means we are looking for volunteers in our new neighborhood. Positions we are currently recruiting for include:

- Webmaster to help us manage and enhance our website.
- Volunteer Advisors to learn our online database inside and out and provide technical support to nonprofits as well as volunteer matching support to volunteers.



Volunteers must be able to make ongoing commitment of one year or more. Volunteers must have extensive website experience and experience in the field of volunteering and nonprofits.

Check [our listing on our website](#) to see positions that are currently open and links to a volunteer application form.

May is Older Americans Month!



The theme for Older Americans Month 2012-*Never Too Old to Play!*-puts a spotlight on the important role older adults play in sharing their experience, wisdom, and understanding, and passing on that knowledge to other generations in a variety of significant ways. This year's celebrations will recognize the value that older adults continue to bring to our communities through spirited participation in social and faith groups, service organizations, and other activities.

Consider joining [RSVP](#), a nation-wide network of volunteers age 55+. This free program will provide you with assistance in finding your ideal volunteer opportunity; complimentary automobile, liability, and injury insurance while volunteering; a quarterly RSVP e-newsletter; and volunteer recognition.

Note: General Assembly Re-Convenes on Monday May 14 to Finish Work on State Budget

For News from the Office of the County Executive, visit:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

Meeting Agendas:

County Council www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council

Planning Board www.montgomeryplanning.org